



## The Face of Fillmore

*By Sherry Shepard*

July 28, 2010

The Face of Fillmore this week tells what has to be the most poignant story in Fillmore's history.

Joseph and Lucretia Robison were introduced to the readers of the Face of Fillmore very early on as the account of them building the first stone building outside of Old Fort Fillmore, which is still standing on Main Street just across from the Millard County Courthouse.



This well-to-do family joined the LDS Church along with many others and traveled to Zion, leaving a prosperous farm and comfortable home in Crete, Illinois. Most importantly, they left a son – Alfred – who was a grown man and had not embrace Mormonism. While Joseph and their son Joseph visited the Illinois farm in the years after their coming to Fillmore, it appears that Lucretia never did. To add to her sadness at leaving a son in Illinois, she also lost a ten-year-old son Proctor in 1857 and ten years later, another son Henry.

In the ensuing years Alfred had a change of heart and longed to be with his family, so he wrote to his mother, asking for forgiveness for his bitter parting from the family and telling her he wanted to visit her in Utah. By some unfortunate happening, the letter reached Fillmore but was never delivered. Seven years after Lucretia's passing in 1899 at age 92, the letter was discovered behind a cabinet in the local post office. Alfred had died eight years before his mother.

This post office was part of the county courthouse, which has been mentioned in the past. It occupied the northwest corner of Main Street and First South where there is a pizza place now. When the original building was dismantled to make way for a new city building, the window where transactions took place in the post office was moved to its new home in the Stevens Department Store on the northeast corner of the same block. That window is now part of the rustic décor in a popular fast food eatery on Main Street in Fillmore. Thanks to Gail Cluff who has carefully preserved it and reminded me of the story of Lucretia and Alfred Robison.

